

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-11 are pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 10 are independent.

Claims 1, 9 and 10 have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language and to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. The amendments to claims 1, 9 and 10 are supported by, for example, page 6, line 24 to page 7, line 9 and FIG. 3 of the present application.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) as the drawings include reference character(s) not mentioned in the description. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment made to the specification overcome this objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwaizono et al. (USP 6,714,882), Sato et al. (USP 6,008,626) and further in view of Thandiwe et al. (USP 6,286,713). Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwaizono, Sato and Thandiwe, and further in view of Farley et al. (USP 5,767,659). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwaizono, Sato and Thandiwe, and further in view of Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2005/0106455). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

In response to the Applicants' argument that in Thandiwe, when fault conditions are detected, the transistor 102 or 106 disconnects the battery from the circuit and therefore the battery does not supply power to the notification portion, the Examiner asserts that Thandiwe

discloses that, when fault condition occurs, the controller sends notification to the user through the notification terminal, referring to col. 4, lines 52-60 of Thandiwe.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 9 and 10 now recite, among other features, “*a forced discharge portion for recognizing an abnormality of the power supply..., and for electrifying the notification portion by the power supply, thereby making the notification portion continuously notify a message indicating that the abnormality is being avoided while the power supply is forcedly being discharged.*”

In contrast, Thandiwe discloses, at col. 3, line 35 to col. 4, line 13, that when fault conditions are detected, the transistor 102 or the transistor 106 having the fuses 104 and 105, respectively, isolate the battery from the circuit. Accordingly, the battery in Thandiwe cannot *continuously* feed the power to the notification portion to indicate a message while the power supply is forcedly being discharged because the power is cut off in the device of Thandiwe

Further, in Thandiwe, the notification to the user merely indicates “a failure” (see, col. 4, lines 52-54), but does not indicate that *the abnormality is being avoided*.

As such, it is clear that, at a minimum, Thandiwe fails to disclose the above discussed elements of claims 1, 9 and 10. It is also clear that none of Iwaizono, Sato, Farley and Yoshida cures the deficiencies of Thandiwe, nor are they relied upon as doing so in the pending rejection.

Accordingly, as each and every element must be disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (see, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03), and the foregoing references fail to do so for at least the reasons set forth above, claims 1, 9 and 10, and any claim dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

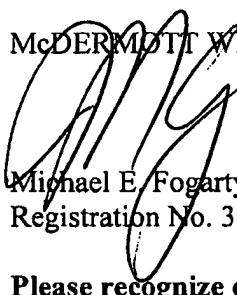
CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 3, 2009